

What is claimed is:

1. An improved memory utilization sequence for a set-top box for processing audio/video signals of the type having a DTV board subject to reset and out-of-reset commands and having a non-volatile memory associated therewith for storing values including a power-state variable having at least an ON state and an OFF state and having a microprocessor controlled by an operating sequence, and at least one other board having a register for storing user inputted commands including a 'power-up' command and devices thereon for placing the DTV board into reset and for taking the DTV board out of reset, characterized by the steps of:

taking the DTV board out of reset upon application of power to the set-top box;

starting execution of a boot-up sequence including the querying the power-state variable in the non-volatile memory associated with the DTV board; and

if the power-state variable is ON, continuing execution of the boot-up sequence including setting of the power-state variable to ON, or

if the power-state variable is OFF, querying the register for a 'power-up' value; and

if the power-up value is present, continuing execution of the boot-up sequence including setting of the power-state variable to ON; or

if the power-up value is not present, commanding the DTV board to its reset state until a power-on command is detected upon which the DTV is taken out of its reset state.